THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 28th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have placed 29 questions before the House to-day and I would like to finish them in one hour."

Gruel centres in Chittoor district.

* 253 *Q.*—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Tahsildar, Vayalpad taluk, was instructed by wire by the concerned district authorities to stop payment of bills to all the gruel centre presidents in the taluk;

(*b*) if so, on what grounds;

(*c*) whether gruel centres are very often stopped in Vayalpad and Madanapalle taluks;

(*d*) whether he is getting reports that the attendance at the gruel centres in Vayalpad, Madanapalle and Punganur taluks is increasing daily; and

(*e*) whether the Government have received complaints that lot of mismanagement and corruption are prevailing in some gruel centres in Chittoor district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (*a*) to (*c*) The Government are not aware of any such instructions having been issued. The general policy is not to stop gruel centres unless the attendance falls so low that it would be unnecessary to continue them.

" (*d*) & (*e*) Government have received no representations of this nature."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH:—" Sir, in view of the fact that a telegram has been received—and I have actually seen that telegram—will the Government instruct the district officials not to interfere too often and to see that the bills are paid to the presidents of the gruel centres regularly so that they may not be stopped? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Yes, Sir, I will see that the bills are regularly paid."

SRI LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI:—" Is it a fact, Sir, the advance amounts to the managing committees of gruel centres have been stopped in Anantapur district thus leading to the closure of gruel centres? "

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Sir, I have already said that there is no information about it."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI:—" Sir, are the Government aware that supplies to gruel centres are not maintained properly and that the cost of the labour and firewood is not met by the Government and consequently, it has become impossible for the managers of these gruel centres to run them properly and, taking advantage of this situation, the local officers are closing down the gruel centres? Also, will the Government provide gruel to adult persons also or in the alternative provide them with employment? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Sir, all that the hon. Member has said will be looked into."

Hunger-strike of Communist prisoners in Cannanore Jail.

* 254 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Communist convicted prisoners in Cannanore Jail have decided to go on hunger-strike on July 20th and if so, what are the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" A request has been received from three of the prisoners in the Cannanore Jail of whom one is an under-trial and has been subsequently released on bail, that they may be released and that pending their release, they may be given some additional privileges. They have threatened to go on hunger-strike if their requests are not favourably considered. The matter is receiving attention.

" I may also add that they have given up the hunger-strike on the 21st July 1952 afternoon and subsequently one of them has been ordered to be released after remitting the sentence. The other is awarded a life sentence and Government have considered it fit not to interfere with the sentence."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know, Sir, what are the additional facilities which the prisoners are asking for? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Sir, they have asked for very many facilities which are not warranted by the rules."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Sir, I asked the Hon. Minister to specifically mention the facilities asked for. Whether they are warranted by the rules or not is a different matter. I want an exact reply, Sir."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Sir, the hon. Member can put a separate question and then I will catalogue all the demands."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—" Sir, the Hon. the Chief Minister said a few days back in his reply that the question of release was